

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Support for each amended Claim is found in the correspondingly numbered original Claim.

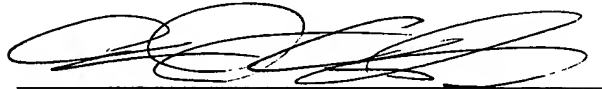
Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-16 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Charles J. Andres, Jr., Ph.D.
Registration No. 57,537

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)